

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 DPW-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

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R 171201Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3378

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ASEAN, TH

SUBJECT : THAI STATEMENTS ON THE BRIEFING GIVEN BY DHARSONO
ON THE ICCS TO THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONFERENCE

1. A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL WHO
ATTENDED THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE TOLD US
THAT DHARSONO, THE HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN CONTINGENT OF
THE ICCS, BRIEFED THE CONFERENCE ON THE INDONESIAN EX-
PERIENCE WITH THE ICCS IN VIETNAM. DHARSONO BLAMED BOTH
SIDES FOR SERIOUS INFRACTIONS, BUT CLEARLY PLACED MORE
ONUS ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. DHARSONO SAID HIS WAS AN
EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING POSITION BECAUSE THE ICCS HAD NO
POLITICAL POWER AND COULD ONLY REPORT ITS UNANIMOUS
FINDINGS TO BOTH SIDES. ADDITIONALLY, THE ICCS HAD TO
INVESTIGATE INCIDENTS ON A CHRONOLOGICAL BASIS RATHER THAN
CONCENTRATING ON THE MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS FIRST.

2. DHARSONO SAID THE ONLY REAL ROLE THE ICCS HAD WAS
ONE OF WITNESS TO THE INFRACTIONS OF THE PEACE PROTOCOLS.

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THE QUESTION WAS RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE WHETHER THE

INDONESIANS SHOULD PULL OUT OF THE ICCS IN ORDER TO GALVANIZE WORLD OPINION TO THE WAR SITUATION WHICH EXISTED IN VIETNAM. THE INDONESIANS AGREED THAT PERHAPS WITHDRAWAL MIGHT HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT, BUT, AT THE LEAST, WOULD LEAVE THE ICCS COMPLETELY AT THE WILL OF THOSE WHO GUIDED THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATIONS. AT THE WORST, WITHDRAWAL COULD COMPLETELY DISMATE THE ICC, AND THE TWO SIDES WOULD BE FREE TO RAISE WHAT IS NOW A DIFFICULT SITUATION TO A FULL-SCALE WAR AGAIN. THE INDONESIANS SAID THEY WOULD STAY WITH THE ICCS SINCE THEY BELIEVE THEY FORM A SMALL DETERRENT, AS WITNESS TO THE WORLD, TO WORSE INFRACTIONS OR COMPLETE WAR.

3. ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE TOLD US SEPARATELY THAT DHARSONO WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF A POLITICAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE GVN AND THE PRG, BUT THAT HE CLEARLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GVN WAS TOO STRONG FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO ACHIEVE A MILITARY VICTORY IN THE SOUTH.
MASTERS

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